

SUMMER DAYS IN OLD YUMA

THEY ARE LIKE ONE LONG UNBROKEN
DREAM OF SHEOL.

Nor Do Summer Visitors Sleep Under Blankets at Night—A Heated Term in Winter the Morning Coolness Was 105 Degrees.

From the Boston Herald.

YUMA, Ariz., Aug. 3.—Fancy an everyday temperature varying from 105 to 125 degrees in the shade for four or more months at a stretch. Imagine a village of several hundred adobe, stone and brick, squat one-story houses and store buildings, all with clumsy porches in front, strewn along a dreary, red-brown, roasting bank of a drowsy, muddy stream, where rida thoroughfares straggle up and down a naked hill, shimmering under the fierce, empty

That is old Yuma, famous as the literally hottest town in the Union. Then imagine a region, thousands of square miles in area, of yellow sand, quaint cacti, whitened boulders, not one commanding mountain or sharp peak to give the landscape any relief, and you have under a fiery sun, and you have the setting of Yuma. Imagine yourself on some vantage spot and looking over a frontier town paralyzed in overwhelming sunlight, where scantly clad, swarthy Indians sprawl fast asleep on hot earth, in a patch of shade, where a few men, in a night of activity anywhere, stored up for the day, are holed up in their houses bolted and blinded, not a sound bold save a rustling of dried sagebrush. And that is life in Yuma during a midsummer afternoon.

For fifty years Yuma, on the Rio Colorado, in southwestern Arizona, has been the banner of the "hot" and "dry" climate. It has been an old town and its fiery summers have been the topic for newspaper humorists. Numerous jokes on the Pacific Coast concerning communities where the mercury climbs high and regarding spirits that have found hardy agencies in the desert have been made. The people in the Eastern States who complain of Sol's darts these days may find satisfaction in learning something about

This season's temperature in Yuma is the warmest yet. The summer has been an average one. From July 30 to August 1, the temperature here ranged from 96 to 101. Then there was a week of comparative coolness; the mercury never rose above 90. From June 7 to June 15, the mercury varied from 105 to 113 degrees, and the desert sand dunes had become baked, and the foothills were glowing. For six weeks the mercury never was below 102, and from that it has gone to 122 degrees twice. From July 8 to July 15, the temperature here was 115 degrees. During months the mercury has slipped slowly to an average of 106 as the season has advanced. In the last week the mercury has climbed up steadily until about 3 o'clock on the warmest weeks of the year are up to make their records. Last summer the mercury touched 127. In September there were several days when the temperature was 120 or more. The lowest temperature ever registered lower than 108 degrees in Yuma was 102 on June 10. The coldest day was Aug. 16, when extra hot winds blow from off the desert. Between dawn and noon the temperature here was 102, and by 3 o'clock it rose to 129. Several deaths among children occurred.

Topographically, Yuma is situated for the

making of high-sulfur oil, and the mining of gold, silver, and copper. In any direction, there is nothing but profound aridity, through which a volcanic desolate landscape stretches. The only points of interest are in sight but a few examples of the heart of a long-extinct volcanic barren hills and sterile canyons, a region of mirages, and a few small, isolated patches of burning alkali wastes and dead dry trees, where not a green thing in nature may be seen for a mile. The only green things are the few wood trees at the railway stations where a few people live. The sky is a clear, cloudless sky twelve hours a day, months at a time. Where inflamed eyes and even blindness are common, the sun is so bright that the earth is so hot that white people can scarcely walk upon it with thin shoes, and where tanned people are common, the sun is so bright that they cannot walk upon it without gloves. The only life is in Yuma for enjoyment. The mining is done by the Chinese, who commonly enrich in copper, silver, and lead, out in the mountains and foothills, keeps the

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It is hard for people who live in a region of green hills, fields of waving grain, brooks and meadows to realize the barrenness of the land in desert regions. The people of the desert are not so plain as those of the green hills. No one does a whit more than is actually necessary. Through the night the stars are visible and the moon comes down. Stores open, wagons of merchandise are taken out, and the people begin their cooking and work for the day, and Mexicans go from house to house delivering barrels of lard and other necessities. At 6 o'clock all the day's duties are done. At 8 o'clock work is finished for a time. The sun is far in the sky and the moon is low. Every one goes to his under cover. The heavy board window blinds are drawn to the top of the frame. The day's work is abandoned to the friendly Indians.

At 6 o'clock at night a general commotion occurs. The doors of the stores are reopened. The temperature may have cooled to 10 or 15 degrees below zero. The people go about the village and perform more household and business duties. At 10 o'clock the stores are closed. The people go to the merchandise stores to get their largest business supplies. They get their shoes, hats, coats, things and pitco, pork, hot, and Yuma.

The Arizona Territorial Penitentiary stands on the edge of the desert. It is reached this side in the northern part of Yuma. Gov. Murray has ordered the building of a new road toward the removal of the crude old structure to a cooler part of the Territory.

There are 1,000 prisoners who live in confinement under this sky longer than eight months. They are given five cents a day, and said a keeper the other day.

WOMEN BANISH MOSQUITOES

Porches of Richmond Hill Made Habitable Through the Use of Crude Oil.

The women of the Twentieth Century Club of Richmond Hill, L. I., have proved the practicability of exterminating mosquitoes by the use of crude oil. Last March this club was addressed by Prof. Keith of the Smithsonian Institution on the subject of exterminating mosquitoes. After the lecture he made a tour of inspection of the grounds of the club, which he considered breeding places for the mosquitoes. These places were marshes and swamps, and the club decided to drain the public and private drains.

The work of exterminating the mosquitoes was placed in the hands of the Civic Committee of the club of which Mrs. (Laghorn) was chairman. The committee has since then purchased through a local merchant several barrels of crude oil and kerosene. Then they set out the oil in tin cans and in small wooden wagons, set the boys to driving them. The wagons were loaded in carriages. The men and boys and the wagons were out at five o'clock and the oil was poured on the water while the women supervised the job.

The results of this work have exceeded expectation. In former years mosquitoes were very bad, but this year they are scarce. There have been very few, and the residents have been able to enjoy their front piazzas with comfort.

The Twentieth Century Club has been active in other directions. It has been successful in getting the city of Richmond Hill made a sanitary town, while most other women's clubs have relinquished their work. The Philanthropic committee has managed to get a room in the guild room of the Church of the Resurrection

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For fifty years Yuma, on the Rio Colorado, in southwestern Arizona, has been the banner town of the old country. It has been the oldest town and its fiery summers have been fertile topics for newspaper humorists. Numerous jokes on the Pacific Coast concerning communities where the mercury climbs high and regarding spirits that have found hardy agencies in the desert have been made there. The people in the Eastern States who complain of Sol's darts these days may find satisfaction in learning something about

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Not one lives in Yuma for enjoyment. The mining men come to the town for their weekly necessities, rich in copper, silver, and lead, out in the mountains and foothills, keep the

in the village. One-third of them are Mexicans; the rest are Americans. Some have braved the desert for a few years, and have accumulated stung fortunes. The town took its name from the fact that the people, coming from the Yuma tribes of aborigines, who fought several battles hereabouts. When gold was discovered in the mountains, the town began to grow as a settlement of white people. During the days of great overland travel, thousands of people went across to Texas and Arizona, and the town grew rapidly. It was founded, up the Golden State by way of Los Angeles, Yuma became a little business point. In 1880 the town was a small place, but from Los Angeles through Yuma, on the way to El Paso and San Antonio, the stage lines were running. Yuma quickly lost prestige. Since 1888 several of the best gold mines in Arizona have been discovered, and the town has been busy working of these mines and a score more mining properties gave old Yuma a new boom. The town is a little better than a frontier town, and, as the summer comes, the doors, and many people slumber under the stars. In the winter, when the cold is in midsummer even the old-timers cannot endure the heat and closeness of an apartment in night. The town is a little better than a frontier town, and, as the summer comes, the doors, and many people slumber under the stars. In the winter, when the cold is in midsummer even the old-timers cannot endure the heat and closeness of an apartment in night. The town is a little better than a frontier town, and, as the summer comes, the doors, and many people slumber under the stars. In the winter, when the cold is in midsummer even the old-timers cannot endure the heat and closeness of an apartment in night.

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The Chinamen, Chinese Americans and Japanese came from the old fort here, and it was named after them. The town has been through several battles heretofore. When gold was discovered in California, in 1849, Yuma became the days of great overland travel by mule train. Thousands of men and thousands of people went across Texas and Arizona crossed the Rio Colorado at Yuma, and went westward to California. In 1860 Yuma became a little business point. In 1880 Yuma was founded. Keokuk and Chicago, Los Angeles through Yuma, and San Francisco, New Orleans, and Yuma as a trading place. One of the best gold mines in Arizona have been developed in the region of the old town. The discovery of gold led to more mining properties gave old Yuma a new boom. People came to live in the town. They had doors, and many people slumber under an open heavens ten months in the year. In the heat and closeness of an apartment at night, they were crowded together like sardines across Yuma at any dawn in midsummer is unique. Everybody in town—men, women and children—were crowded together. There are cots on the flat roofs, cots on the porches, cots on the streets. Men and women in the wide streets, where the perspiring, feverish people have tried to find the least bit of stirring breeze. It is a hell of a life, a hell of a being. Some men and women are stretched out with the lightest sheets over their heads and children slumber with only the sapphire sky

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At 6 o'clock at night a general commotion occurs. The doors of the stores are reopened. The temperature may have cooled to 10 or 15 degrees below zero, but the people do not care. They go about their work, and people go about the village and perform more household and business duties. At 10 o'clock the stores are closed, and the people go to their homes. The merchandise stores do their largest business in the afternoon, and the people go about their things and pity poor, hot, arid Yuma.

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The work of exterminating the mosquitoes was placed in the hands of the Civic Committee of the club of which Mrs. (Laghorn) was chairman. She has since that time had the club purchase through a local merchant several barrels of crude oil and kerosene. Then they have sent the boys to the marshes and in wagons, set the boys to driving them. The boys have been in charge of the wagons, and the men and boys were sent to the marshes and ponds were set on fire. The boys poured the oil on the water while the women supervised the job.

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The Twentieth Century Club has been active in other directions. It has been very comfortable, while most other women's clubs have been doing nothing. The Philanthropic Committee has many projects. The club is in the guild room of the Church of the Resurrection